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Ministry of Advanced Education

SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES IN B.C.

VICTORIA – B.C. is promoting the international exchange of knowledge and culture through a new scholarship that will support international students attending public post-secondary institutions in B.C., Minister of Advanced Education Murray Coell announced today.

"These new scholarships will bring academic excellence to B.C. and help us forge even stronger social, educational and economic ties with the countries and people of the Asia-Pacific, and around the globe," said Coell. "Bringing students from other countries to study in our province helps our students become global citizens and brings experience that will contribute to B.C.'s competitiveness and productivity."

The One World International Scholarships for study in B.C. will be funded from a portion of the returns on a $13 million endowment fund established by the Province for international education in 2006. Up to $100,000 will be awarded annually to foreign students from a designated country, to pursue post-secondary education in B.C. For the next two school years, these scholarships will be available to students from China. The government of China has already established a similar program to host B.C. students.

Depending on the amount of revenue generated by the endowment fund, up to 10 scholarships of $10,000 each will be awarded annually to help international students study in B.C. The international scholarships endowment fund also supports three scholarship programs that help students from B.C. study abroad.

"This is another significant step forward that will enhance the educational exchange and cooperation between China and the province of British Columbia," said B.C. education consul from the People's Republic of China Jianhui Xia. "On behalf of the potential Chinese recipients of this scholarship, I would like to thank the B.C. government and the Victoria Foundation for offering these opportunities."

In partnership with the Victoria Foundation, the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society manages the endowment and awards the scholarships based on eligibility criteria and an application process.

"The Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society is pleased to manage this international scholarship program, made possible through an endowment from the provincial government," said society board chair Mike Apsey. "These scholarships are another example of where the Society is able to make a province-wide impact by supporting post-secondary education."

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For more information about this scholarship, the society's other scholarship programs, or to donate to the international scholarships endowment fund, visit www.bcscholarship.ca or call the Victoria Foundation at 250-381-5532.

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